

◆ **EPPO Standards** ◆

PHYTOSANITARY PROCEDURES

**GROWING PLANTS IN GROWING MEDIUM
PRIOR TO EXPORT**

PM 3/54(1) English



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APPROVAL

EPPO Standards are approved by EPPO Council. The date of approval appears in each individual standard.

REVIEW

EPPO Standards are subject to periodic review and amendment. The next review date for this set of EPPO Standards is decided by the EPPO Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations.

AMENDMENT RECORD

Amendments will be issued as necessary, numbered and dated. The dates of amendment appear in each individual standard (as appropriate).

DISTRIBUTION

EPPO Standards are distributed by the EPPO Secretariat to all EPPO member governments. Copies are available to any interested person under particular conditions upon request to the EPPO Secretariat.

SCOPE

EPPO Phytosanitary Procedures are intended to be used by National Plant Protection Organizations, in their capacity as bodies responsible for the inspection, testing and treatment of plants and plant products moving in trade, or for the implementation of surveys against quarantine pests.

REFERENCES

OEPP/EPPO (1996) Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms. *EPPO Technical Documents* no. 1026.

CABI/EPPO (1997) Quarantine Pests for Europe, 2nd edition (Ed. by Smith, I.M.; McNamara, D.G.; Scott, P.R.; Holderness, M.), CAB International, Wallingford, UK.

OEPP/EPPO (in preparation) Specific Quarantine Requirements. Available as electronic documents from the EPPO Web Site.

DEFINITIONS

Phytosanitary procedure: Any officially prescribed method for performing inspections, tests, surveys or treatments in connection with plant quarantine.

Inspection: Official visual examination of plants, plant products or other regulated articles to determine if pests are present and/or to determine compliance with phytosanitary regulations.

Survey: An official procedure conducted over a defined period of time to determine the characteristics of a pest population or to determine which species occur in an area.

Test: Official examination, other than visual, to determine if pests are present or to identify pests.

Treatment: An officially authorized procedure for the killing, removal or rendering infertile of pests.

OUTLINE OF REQUIREMENTS

EPPO Phytosanitary Procedures describe the methods to be followed for performing inspections, tests, or treatments of commodities moving in trade, or surveys against quarantine pests. For many quarantine pests, a reference to the relevant EPPO Phytosanitary Procedure is made in the corresponding EPPO Specific Quarantine Requirements. The development of EPPO phytosanitary procedures started many years ago, and these methods have been published in the Bulletin OEPP/EPPO Bulletin under several titles: 'Fumigation standards', 'Quarantine Inspection Procedures' and 'Quarantine Procedures'. All of them are now appearing under the title 'EPPO Phytosanitary Procedures' and are being edited into EPPO Standard format. The numbering of these procedures will continue to follow the sequence described in the Bulletin OEPP/EPPO Bulletin 20(2), 229-233, which corresponds approximately to the chronological order of appearance of the Phytosanitary Procedures.

Phytosanitary procedure

GROWING PLANTS IN GROWING MEDIUM PRIOR TO EXPORT

Specific scope

This standard describes the methods for growing plants in growing medium prior to export, to satisfy requirements of EPPO Standards PM 2/21(2), PM 2/33(2), PM2/35(2), PM 2/36(2), PM 2/40(3), PM 2/41(2), PM 2/163(1), PM 2/200(2), PM 2/229(2), PM 2/230(2), PM 2/231(2), PM 2/233(2), PM 2/234(2), PM 2/235(2), PM 2/236(2), PM 2/237(2), PM 2/239(2), PM 2/241(2), PM 2/242(2), PM 2/243(2).

Specific approval and amendment

First approved in September 1993.
Edited as EPPO Standard in 1998.

Introduction

EPPO specific quarantine requirements (SQRs) for several quarantine pests (OEPP/EPPO, 1990) take account of the risk that the pests may be present in growing medium attached to or associated with plants with roots. This applies in particular to such plants imported from non-EPPO countries. A requirement is made to follow specific procedures for growing the plants prior to export. These concern: (1) the quality of the growing medium itself; (2) the conditions under which the plants are grown, and especially their protection from external infestation by quarantine pests.

1. Quality of growing medium

The growing medium must be free from quarantine pests. This can be achieved in three different ways, any one of which is sufficient. Firstly, completely inorganic growing medium is considered to be free from quarantine pests. Secondly, an organic growing medium can be made free from quarantine pests by treatment, e.g. chemical disinfection or steam sterilization. Thirdly, it may be possible for an organic medium to be inspected or tested for particular pests by various methods, specific to the pests concerned, to confirm their absence.

2. Growing conditions

The plants must be grown at all stages in growing medium of the quality specified above. The planting material must be healthy: depending on the specific situation, the use of seeds, stem-cutting material, material derived in a direct line from stem-cutting material, tested planting material or the use of resistant cultivars is appropriate. They must be grown in such a way that they cannot become infested by the specified quarantine pests. If this is not feasible, then the growing medium should not have a production link with other potentially infested growing medium. This means for example that:

- (1) host plants are grown in boxes, pots, trays, etc., separated from the soil surface. The separation can be established by plastic, concrete or another type of cover on the soil surface or by the use of pots on stands. The open side of the boxes, pots, trays are screened from the soil surface to prevent (re)infestation by, for example, water splash;
- (2) tools and other equipment or machines are not used in common for both non-infested and potentially infested growing media (without proper disinfection);
- (3) water supply for non-infested growing media is not contaminated with water from potentially infested growing media;

- (4) all human activities should be conducted so as to take account of the prevention of (re)infestation of growing media.

Alternatively, the growing medium should be changed some time within the 2 weeks before despatch. The original medium should be removed as completely as possible by thorough shaking of the plants, and the plants should then be replanted in fresh growing medium of the quality specified above.

Reference

OEPP/EPPPO (1990) Specific quarantine requirements. *EPPPO Technical Documents* no. 1008.